



**VILLAGE OF WAUCONDA
LICENSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY – AUGUST 30, 2016**

**Village Hall Board Room
101 N. Main Street
Wauconda, IL 60084**

MINUTES

Board members in attendance: Chairman Tim Howe, Trustee Lincoln Knight, Trustee Ken Arnswald and Trustee John Barbini.

Others in attendance: Trustee Linda Starkey, Trustee Chuck Black, Village Administrator, Doug Maxeiner, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building, Chris Miller, and Deputy Clerk, Sherry Davies.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howe called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the May 17, 2016 Committee meeting were approved.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Backyard Hens

Chairman Howe reviewed some of the backyard hen ordinances of surrounding communities in Lake County. Most have regulations regarding number of hens allowed, no roosters allowed and prohibiting the sale of eggs from backyard hens.

Jeff Brottman spoke regarding chicken coops, saying that heating them is optional if insulation is adequate.

There was a brief discussion regarding disposal of aged, dead, or birds that have stopped laying eggs.

Jonathan Feryance resides in unincorporated Wauconda and has backyard hens. Lake County regulates the number of hens and the number is determined by the size of the land. He said Lake County has very good guidelines. Trustee Starkey asked about the permitting or inspection process. Mr. Feryagee explained that the regulations are clearly documented, and the County verifies the coops and there is a permit requirement.

Fencing was discussed, both minimum size and fencing within a fence for the coop, which Director Miller said would also require a permit. There would be no permit required for building a coop. Jennifer Steidele let the group know that Big R in McHenry sells ready to assemble coops that indicate how many hens it accommodates. One resident commented that he has a six foot fence and his hens have never gotten over it.



Trustee Starkey asked about set-backs. Chairman Howe reviewed the Volo and Grayslake ordinances. Grayslake requires that neighbors be notified. It was mentioned that there is a registration process with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and one of the committee members asked if the State issues anything regarding the registration. It was recommended that staff follow up with the State. Chairman Howe commented that the Village would probably want an annual inspection to ensure code enforcement, and the permitting fee would be approximately \$75.00.

Trustee Knight remarked on the Homeowner's Associations receiving letters regarding this issue and that only three responses were received. Chairman Howe reminded everyone that HOA rules and regulations disallowing backyard hens would supersede any such Village ordinance. Trustee Barbini strongly recommended that all HOAs be notified prior to a proposed ordinance being presented to the Board.

When the question of whether or not four hens is a reasonable restriction, Pamela Stanley commented that there should be no less than two hens because they are social animals. She feels a maximum of four would be best, with a minimum of two. She also recommended that educational information be distributed as part of the permitting process. 4H Club would be a good source of information. It was also recommended that the birds have their wings clipped.

Cleanliness of the coop was discussed and it was the general opinion that a coop structure and the hens should be dealt with much the same as dogs are. As far as wild animals and predators are concerned, they do not attract any more than any other family pet.

Jonathan Feryance said the hens are not noisy and only "crow" when they have laid an egg and that only happens during the day. They are not as noisy as a dog. Hens molt and lose their feathers, and then they do not lay eggs. Since hens need a certain amount of light to lay eggs, they do not lay as many eggs during the winter months.

Trustee Starkey asked if there is any potential liability on the part of the Village regarding diseases from the hens. Staff needs to consult with Attorney Magna.

Maria Weisbruch said she has neighbors with chickens and they do not smell and are very nice animals.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with allowing back yard hens, directing Administrator Maxeiner and Director Miller to develop language for such an ordinance incorporating the following restrictions/requirements:

- * The square footage of the lot shall determine the number of hens allowed;
- * Esthetics of the chicken coop;
- * Permit process;
- * Annual inspection;



- * Remediation process for non-compliance;
- * No roosters, with a time frame to remove it if it is determined a person has one;
- * Fencing;
- * Clipped wings;
- * Artificial lighting of coop not to be a nuisance;
- * Set-back requirements.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

A) Review of Codification Vendors

Administrator Maxeiner reviewed and compared the General Code, a/k/a eCode, and Municode information with the Committee. He met personally with a representative of eCode and received information via email from Municode, which he supplied to the Committee members. He recommended visiting [Crystal Lake.org](http://CrystalLake.org) for an eCode example and visiting [Village of Grayslake.com](http://VillageofGrayslake.com) for a Municode example. Both sites are very user friendly. eCode estimated a 12-18 month process for recodification, with an estimated cost of \$16,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Municode estimated a time frame of 12-16 weeks but would not quote a cost. Administrator Maxeiner thinks it will cost more than what eCode quoted. Attorney Magna has expressed concerns about moving away from the current codifier and there will be follow up conversation with him regarding those concerns.

The next License and Administration Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2016 due to Cruise Night. The Marketing Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

All public comment is included in Paragraph 3 above.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Howe adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sherry Davies